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Mass. passes hate crimes legislation

Passage of the measure comes in the wake of rising anti-gay violence in the state and increased activism by lesbians and gay men

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON—In the final days of the 1990 legislative session, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate passed a hate crimes statistics bill on Dec. 13. The bill, which Gov. Michael Dukakis is expected to sign quickly, will require law enforcement agencies to report bias-motivated crimes in Massachusetts to a centralized data collection agency. The bill also mandates that state police be trained in the detection of bias crimes.

"It is a significant victory," said Gary Daffin of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. He told *GCN* that the bill "forces state officials to recognize that there are crimes committed against gay men and lesbians because they are gay men and lesbians."

The bill defines hate crimes as criminal acts accompanied by overt action indicating bias or bigotry based on race, religion, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation. The bill was drafted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), and supported by a coalition of groups, including the Caucus and the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights. The gay community's effort on behalf of the bill culminated in a Coalition-sponsored rally in Oct. attended by more than 150 people (see *GCN*, Oct. 7-13).

The bill creates a new agency to collect statistics on the incidence of hate crimes. The new Crime Reporting Unit will be formed from two existing groups, the Department of Public Safety and the Criminal History Systems Board. The bill also makes the Criminal Justice Training Council responsible for including information about hate crimes in its curricula for police officers. However, the bill does not allocate any new funds for state agencies to effect these changes.

Don Gorton of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance told *GCN* that, "It's going to be a top priority for 1991 for the Alliance to make sure that the [sensitivity] training does happen, that the money is found." He added, "It is so necessary to sensitize and improve the professionalism of the police force—something we haven't always seen."

According to Sen. William Golden (D-Weymouth), one of the bill's key sponsors in the Senate, the legislation was nearly killed by opponents, primarily right-wing Sen. Edward Kirby (R-Whitman). With only a few days left in the legislative session, the bill was voted back into the Committee on Bills in Third Reading on Dec. 10. (This same stalling tactic was used successfully in 1987 and 1988 to prevent passage of the Lesbian

and Gay Civil Rights Bill, which was finally approved in 1989.)

Golden told *GCN* he was able to move the bill out of Third Reading by agreeing to an amendment that eliminated non-criminal actions from the bill's scope. When the bill came to the Senate floor for a final vote, Kirby, who had prepared a number of weakening amendments, "was caught off guard," said Golden, who added, "I don't even think he was in the chamber." The legislation was successfully steered through the House by Rep. Augusto Grace (D-Burlington).

Golden, who gave up his Senate seat in an unsuccessful bid for lieutenant governor, called the passage of the hate crimes measure "a nice way to complete my last year in the Senate . . . I feel very good about this."

The ADL's Sally Greenberg, who has lobbied for the bill for a year-and-a-half, said that she "had envisioned a broader bill" than the amended version that finally passed. "We are still concerned about harassment that doesn't rise to the level criminal of action," Greenberg told *GCN*. However, she added, "It is still a solid piece of legislation that becomes part of a panoply of civil rights legislation."

A year of activism

The passage of the hate crimes measure concludes a particularly violent year for gay people in Massachusetts that sparked considerable anti-violence activism by a variety of groups. In the first nine months of 1990, Fenway Community Health Center's Victim Recovery Program received reports of 108 anti-gay incidents. According to the program's Robert Wienerman, Fenway expects that the number of reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, and assault will top 140 in 1990, up dramatically since last year, when the organization received 84 reports. And, Wienerman told *GCN*, "I know our numbers are low, because I hear of things from the police and in the community that have not been reported to us."

The 12 gay-bashings reported in Boston's South End last summer, the murder of a gay man in the city's Dorchester neighborhood last spring, and an ongoing wave of assaults both in a Boston cruising area and in Provincetown, Mass. galvanized activism throughout the state. A Queer Nation/Boston chapter, organized in August, has taken to the streets repeatedly to combat anti-gay violence. ACT UP/Provincetown and the Cape and Islands Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Issues and Concerns challenged District Attorney Philip Rollins to justify his refusal

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California law recognizes self-declared families

While some gay and lesbian couples have used the law to register with the state, gay rights advocates caution against equating the measure with marriages or domestic partnerships

By Chris Nealon

LOS ANGELES — In a creative interpretation of California law, an activist organization here announced Dec. 16 that groups of people who want to be recognized as families may register with the state. The Family Diversity Project, a multi-issue advocacy group, said it had established that a California statute regarding "unincorporated nonprofit institutions" applied to groups who consider themselves families. Under the statute, the secretary of state may issue a certificate that officially registers such institutions — now including self-declared families — with the state. Family Diversity says that seven families in California have successfully tested the system, including two gay male couples, a lesbian couple, a step-family and a family of Guatemalan refugees with their American legal guardian.

Lesbian and gay activists say they are not yet certain what benefits the registration process will bring, describing the state certificate as a primarily symbolic gesture. Family Diversity asserts, however, that the policy decision is an important step in long-term recognition of different family structures.

"This will lead to a more expansive definition of 'family,'" said Thomas F. Coleman, Family Diversity's executive director. He told *GCN* that although self-styled families might not reap tangible political benefits from the registration process in the immediate future, the new policy has other advantages. "There are psychological benefits to empowering people who traditionally have felt cut out, disenfranchised," he said. "That may be the most important consequence of all."

In the meantime, he said, some of the seven families who have registered already are testing the political force of their certificates. Some families are asking about retirement benefits, said Coleman, and others have written to airlines to see if family-oriented travel benefits like "frequent flyer"

discounts apply to them. He also said that Cedar Sinai Hospital, near West Hollywood, Calif., has already agreed to allow full family visitation rights to those with the state certificates.

"Yes, it's symbolic," Coleman said. "But it also makes a difference [to institutions like hospitals] when someone's got a document and shoves it in your face."

Andrea Pallish, a legal services staff member at National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), told *GCN* she was uncertain, nonetheless, of what the certificates represent. "I think it's a nod from the state," she said. "It's an attractive certificate, but that's about it." Pallish said her doubts centered around the fact that the registration process is "not part of any other system"; that is, that the certificates are not linked to legislative reform or other, sweeping political changes.

"What it might indicate is a kind of softening," said Pallish, "a quiet beckoning for us to come forward." In particular, she said, she wondered if the secretary of state's office was endorsing the expanded registration system in lieu of offering support for a gay and lesbian marriage bill, scheduled for debate in the next legislative term. "Is this a warming or a warning?" asked Pallish. "It may just be the state government saying, 'This is the bone we are offering.'"

Pallish also said she doesn't think lesbians and gay men yet have a clear idea of what the registration process means. She cited phone calls to NGRA in which "people want to know if they can get married now." Not only do the certificates have nothing to do with marriage, Pallish said, they do not even function as an indication of domestic partnership. Pallish said that domestic partnerships "are a different creature entirely" than family registration. Domestic partnerships, she said, must be legislatively created, and may begin to provide for some of the myriad legal and financial benefits that

Continued on page 3

Quote of the week

"It really is very fine journalism, but, their unyielding commitment to political rectitude makes their cultural reportage self-righteous, ham-handed and dull. The entire collective is humor-impaired, which news will no doubt delight them — handicapped status is for them a kind of secular sainthood."

—A description of Gay Community News in Factsheet Five, a publication that lists and provides information about other periodicals and magazines.

Ban on Haitian blood donors lifted

WASHINGTON—Following several studies by federal health officials, the U.S. government has decided to rescind its ban on Haitian people as blood donors. The studies were commissioned after massive protests by the Haitian community when the government announced the exclusionary policy last spring.

In place of the old policy, Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan said that all potential blood donors will be asked more detailed questions about their sexual history, according to the *New York Times*. The questioning will attempt to screen out potential donors who may have recently been exposed to AIDS or HIV, a virus believed by many to be a cause of AIDS.

In the early years of the epidemic, Haitian people were considered to be a "high risk group" for AIDS. That assessment was apparently reinstated last April, when the government announced that Haitian immigrants could not donate blood because heterosexual transmission of AIDS is common in Haiti.

—Laura Briggs

School official endorses condom distribution

NEW YORK—City school chancellor Joseph Fernandez announced Dec. 5 that he wants to make condoms available to any high school student, with or without parental permission. Fernandez cited the large number of New York teenagers who have AIDS, and the proven efficacy of condoms in preventing the spread of the disease, according to the *New York Times*.

Fernandez made the announcement at a school board meeting. His proposal met with opposition from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, several school board members, and some parents.

—Laura Briggs

Weld addresses gay group

BOSTON—Governor-elect William Weld promised "a new day dawning" for gay men and lesbians in Massachusetts in his speech at the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights' second annual awards celebration, held here Dec. 12.

"So far as in us the power lies, homophobia is going to be extinct by the time we're done in Massachusetts," Weld told the mostly lesbian and gay crowd. Republican Weld called the gay and lesbian vote an important factor in his 70,000 vote margin of victory over arch-conservative John Silber.

The governor-elect also promised to appoint "a good number" of gay men and lesbians to his administration, and singled out gay Republican Mike Duffy as "a hero." Many believe that Duffy's unsuccessful bid to unseat pro-gay Democrat Byron Rushing resulted in the emergence of gay Republicans as a political force in Boston.

—Laura Briggs

Anti-gay attacks up in Peru

LIMA, Peru — Citing an extremely high level of homophobic violence this year, lesbian and gay activists here say their movement is facing overwhelming challenges. Murders, threats and a hostile press, they say, are contributing to an environment in which lesbians and gay men do not feel safe on a day-to-day basis.

According to the *Philadelphia Gay News*, Lima activist Rebecca Sevilla said that, "As an expression of the generalized social violence, for example, in the last 10 months 60 transvestites have been assassinated. These assassinations are the most brutal example of the violence encountered by lesbians and gays." At least two assassinations involve the Tupac Amaru

Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), which has stated that the elimination of homosexual people is one of its goals. MRTA staged a raid of the jungle town of Tarapoto in May as part of a "moralization" plan, killing two gay men.

Sevilla, who is the executive director of the Homosexual Movement of Lima (MOHL), said that lesbians and gay men are encountering more government-sponsored harassment. In June, Lima police raided a barrio restaurant that was holding a drag beauty contest. Several papers tried to justify the police action, Sevilla said, and not one of them denounced it.

Meanwhile, Peru's human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, claim that anti-gay attacks do not qualify as political violence. In response to raids like the one in Tarapoto, said a MOHL lawyer, "these groups ... have remained silent."

—Chris Nealon

Activists protest homophobic comic

BOCA RATON, Fla.—Lesbian and gay student activists joined with statewide organizations here recently, protesting a local performance by homophobic comedian Sam Kinison. Students from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), along with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the National Organization for Women (NOW), picketed outside the Nov. 18 engagement, waving placards and passing out informational flyers. Kinison is widely known for denouncing homosexuality in his comedy routines.

According to *The Weekly News*, a Florida lesbian and gay newspaper, students in line for the Kinison performance responded angrily to the protesters, shouting, "Who's a faggot here?" and "Fuck you if you can't take a joke."

GLAAD/Florida chairperson Brian Argobast de Hubert-Miller said he thought that "the guilt of being associated with hate, violence, and the resulting social division has deeply tarnished the reputation of Florida Atlantic University." He added, however, that protesters did not wish to censor Kinison. "The university should be an open forum for the uninhibited exchange of ideas," he said. "We are here to censure, to show our disappointment in the students who selected him and the people who patronize him."

—Chris Nealon

'Battered Woman Syndrome' successfully used in lesbian case

LOS ANGELES— In the first victory of its kind, a lesbian batterer was sentenced here after prosecutors introduced the Battered Woman Syndrome (BWS) as evidence. Psychologists describe BWS as an emotional dynamic in which the victim of battering comes to feel responsible for the violence directed against her, and believes that the violence is justified. Prosecutors said they brought BWS to bear on the case because the victim was claiming that her initial testimony was false, and that she had never been battered.

Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge Veronica Simmons McBeth sentenced Sherry Sperling to three years summary probation Oct. 29. McBeth also ordered Sperling to enroll in a batterer's treatment program.

Alana Bowman, the director of the Domestic Violence Unit of the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, told *GCN* she thought there were a few especially significant aspects of the Sperling case. First, she said, "BWS has been recognized as applying to lesbians."

In addition, said Bowman, the Sperling case marks the first time that prosecutors have been able to produce specifically lesbian expert testimony on a battered woman's behalf. "We have a lot of resources here in Los Angeles," Bowman remarked, "and we came up with a number of competent witnesses." She pointed in particular to a number of counselors at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in L.A. who testified that BWS applies to lesbian domestic violence.

Bowman, who said that the city attorney's office sees over 7,000 battering incidents each year, also said that she thought the Sperling case would open the way for future prosecutions for lesbians and gay men involved in battering relationships. "We need to recognize that there's domestic violence in the gay community, too," said Bowman. "This is a break in the shell of silence."

—Chris Nealon

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Homophobic poster sparks controversy on Iowa campus

Gay students and faculty members demand action from officials at the University of Iowa following the appearance of a bootleg poster featuring cartoon character Bart Simpson

By Chris Nealon

IOWA CITY, Iowa — A homophobic poster featuring cartoon character Bart Simpson touched off a semester-long controversy at the University of Iowa (UI) here, sending ripples through the University administration and galvanizing lesbian and gay students and staff. In particular, UI lesbians and gay men say they are dissatisfied with the university administration's Dec. 15 response to an official complaint about the Simpson graphic.

The outcry began in September, when bisexual graduate student Brett Beemyn spotted the poster in a display case outside the offices of the *Campus Review*, a conservative publication. The poster described Bart as an "AIDS activist" and depicted him with a slingshot, saying "Back off, faggot!" (The image is not a licensed use of Bart Simpson, and 20th Century Fox, which airs "The Simpsons" television program, is pursuing legal action against the *Review*.)

Beemyn immediately filed a complaint with the UI Human Rights Committee. Shortly afterwards, however, he raised objections to the committee's conduct, claiming that he had been treated rudely by some of its members.

The controversy spread further as the one openly gay member of the committee resigned in mid-October, citing frustration with the group's insensitivity. Two weeks later another committee member, whom lesbian and gay students say they consider homophobic, also resigned.

The remainder of the committee officially responded to Beemyn's complaint Dec. 15, announcing that it did consider the anti-gay poster a violation of Beemyn's human rights. Lesbian and gay activists at UI, however, say they think the committee's recommendations — that Beemyn receive an apology from the *Review*, and that the display case be made an open forum for political expression — are not forceful enough.

"I'm disappointed," said Beemyn. "The whole reason for my filing the complaint was not so I could know that [the poster] was a violation. I know that. I filed the complaint to have [the *Campus Review*] receive some sort of punishment." The administration's announcement, activists say, indicates that UI cannot punish the *Review* because it is not an official campus organization, even though the paper's office is in the student center.

"Well, they're making a statement," said Beemyn. Referring to UI President Hunter Rawling's endorsement of the committee's recommendations, he added, "I'm told it's the first time Rawlings has spoken out on lesbian and gay issues. But their action — it's really inaction."

Oswald Diaz-Duque, the gay man who resigned from the human rights committee, told GCN that he was extremely upset with the apathy about lesbian and gay concerns he had encountered among his colleagues. Even before Beemyn filed a complaint, Diaz-Duque said, he distributed copies of the Simpson poster to his fellow committee members, "none of whom made any comment whatsoever."

Later, said Diaz-Duque, when the committee was interviewing Beemyn and another complainant, a committee member "behaved in a horrible manner, victimizing these people who had already been victimized." He said that this member "expressed her beliefs about 'homosexuals,' as she called them, to the complainants, and then to me afterwards."

At that point, he said, "the committee refused to apologize to the complainants, or to reprimand this member. I had no choice but to resign."

Diaz-Duque's decision gave added publicity to the anti-gay incident — and, he said, brought the issue squarely in front of the faculty. He described relations between gay and non-gay professors as "tenuous" at the moment. "This is because of what I would call the problem of 'good gays' and 'bad gays.' One is a good gay when one doesn't say much — but because some of us have been bad gays and bad lesbians, it's

been very tense."

(Sharlene Lenhart, another member of the human rights committee, resigned without comment two weeks after Diaz-Duque. Diaz-Duque did not comment on her resignation; but Beemyn told local papers at that time that he was glad she had left because he thought she did not uphold the notion that lesbians and gay men had human rights.)

The poor handling of Beemyn's complaint, said Diaz-Duque, "has brought a lot of embarrassment to the University." He cited national coverage in publications like the *New York Times* as especially damning. And as lesbians and gay men at UI continue to express their anger, he said, the administration "will wish such scrutiny had not been put upon them."

Help from outside

Along with outside press coverage, the controversy surrounding Beemyn's complaint has drawn support from statewide lesbian and gay groups. Mona Shaw, co-chair of the Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, said she put together a coalition of Iowa City lesbian and gay groups after Beemyn told her that he was unhappy about his interview with the rights committee. "He didn't feel it was a safe space," Shaw said. Since then, she added, the coalition has met with UI's president, and plans to keep pressure on the administration to deal more thoroughly with campus homophobia.

Shaw said she was frustrated by the Dec. 15 announcement, which she called "the biggest joke I've seen on paper in a long time." Because the University is willing to offer space in the student union to non-student groups but will not punish them for violations of the human rights code, Shaw said, "Basically what they're saying is that the student union isn't under the jurisdiction of the university. We're hoping that's illegal."

Another consequence of the semester's debate was the formation of a faculty/staff lesbian, gay and bisexual organization. Michael Jogerst, a UI professor of political science and one of the group's facilitators, told GCN that, "There has never been any clearinghouse for lesbian and gay concerns here before. This became particularly clear when the university was responding to the Bart Simpson poster."

With the human rights committee "acting despicably," said Jogerst, "it was time to respond. Push came to shove." The new group has met several times so far, Jogerst said, and is planning to suggest sensitivity training for administrative bodies, including the human rights committee.

Jogerst said he would describe the letter calling the poster a violation as "muted acquiescence" to gay anger. "I don't think they would have been so mild if the poster had said, 'Back off, kike, or nigger, or chink. That would not have been okay. With this, they said it was wrong — but it was not wrong enough for them to actually do anything about it.'"

Shaw agreed that the time for action was long overdue. "People have had it. They're tired of being polite." She pointed to a recent incident in a local restaurant, in which a gay waiter refused to serve the editor of the *Review*. That action, she said, drew praise from lesbians and gay men all over Iowa City. (The *Review* editor has filed a complaint with the city's own Human Rights Commission over the episode.)

Curtis Proctor, a co-moderator of UI's Gay People's Union (GPU), agreed with Shaw that lesbians and gay men on campus are beginning to speak out in earnest, and added that he thought support for them is quite broad. He pointed to strong assistance from the university's Latina/Latino community, and said that the GPU had also gotten help from the Women's Resource and Action Center in drafting its letter of protest to the president.

"It's pretty progressive here, in many respects," Proctor said. "And I guess when crisis happens, those connections are precipitated."

—filed from Boston



The remains of Somewhere Else after the first fire

'Somewhere Else' aims for February reopening

By Laura Briggs

BOSTON—Somewhere Else, a local lesbian bar that has been a community institution since 1976, may soon reopen, but with a closing time of midnight. In a Nov. 29 ruling, the Boston Licensing Board, citing neighbors' fears of noise and another fire like the one that closed the bar two years ago, opposed the management's bid for a later closing time.

"I don't know where this decision comes from, but it sure doesn't come from the facts," said manager Anne Renzi, who said she found it illogical to try to prevent fires with an earlier closing time.

Renzi also told GCN that now that the club's license is renewed, although for shorter hours, it may be ready to re-open as soon as February. However, Renzi said she doesn't "want to make any promises. Things have been held up so many times."

Somewhere Else was closed following a fire in Feb. of 1989, which began in the bath house above the bar. The fire, which many suspected was arson, was the second in five years in the building. Renzi and her partner, Patty McNeice, blame the fires on people associated with the bath house, which is no longer operating.

However, Licensing Board chair Tom Stanton cited other reasons for the Board's decision. "There were some concerns about the building owner, Jack Gateman, not the managers," Stanton told GCN. "But Gateman holds the liquor license."

In its decision, the Licensing Board wrote of McNeice and Renzi, "These young ladies certainly do impress the Board by their clean cut appearance and their articulate, earnest appeal" that there needs to be a lesbian bar in Boston. However, neighbors testified at the hearing that in the past drunken patrons from the bar had been seen "partying in the rear alley, fighting, causing vandalism, and even urinating out in the open." The Board found for the neighbors, even though none had filed complaints two years ago when the alleged disturbances occurred.

"We had no license violations," said Renzi, "and that's the only thing the Board should have judged us on." Renzi said that the hours reduction was particularly galling because there was no way to appeal the

decision. "If it were a revocation or a suspension, we could appeal it to the ABC [Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission] and then to the courts," she said. "But cutting down our hours is like revoking our license for the period when it's in effect," said Renzi, adding, "There are no checks and balances."

While Renzi said she thinks of the hours reduction as "temporary," Stanton phrased it differently, saying, "Unless some changed circumstances merit reconsideration one way or another, it's 12 midnight."

Renzi said that in the 20 months she and McNeice have been involved with trying to renovate and reopen the downtown bar on Franklin St. in the financial district, they have had numerous problems with city agencies, a number of which, Renzi believes, have concerns about Gateman. There have been repeated struggles over building permits, delaying a hoped-for opening for more than a year. "It's political games," said Renzi, adding, "I think we're being squeezed in the middle."

If and when Somewhere reopens, it will face more competition than it did previously. Before the fire, the club's only competitor was a lesbian night at an otherwise predominantly straight bar. Now, there are two other lesbian bars, both in Cambridge: Indigo and Gertrude's.

Gertrude's is newer and less established than Indigo, which has a large and steady clientele. Nevertheless, Gertrude's manager, Kris White, says she is not worried by the idea of Somewhere's reopening. "I don't see it as competition," she told GCN. "Gertrude's pulls a different crowd." White said that where Indigo and Somewhere Else both have large dance floors that are their main attractions, Gertrude's is a "casual, comfortable bar, where you can come in to play pool and do your own thing, or dance if you want to."

White said that she thinks having more places for lesbians is good for the community. And, despite economic recession, she believes there is room for another lesbian bar. "When you think about it, bars are the only things that survive during bad times," said White, adding, "In the recession that we're in, our bar has picked up tremendously." □

Calif. law

Continued from page 1
marriage offers.

Long-term activism, overnight results

Coleman agreed with Pallish that the registration process was not a substitute for either marriage or domestic partnership, but added that he never intended it to be. In fact, he said, his work on the registration system arises out of his frustration with earlier domestic partnership efforts. After seeing a partnership plan get shot down in San Francisco in 1984, he said, "I thought, 'The time is now'; the issue of family diversity needs to be dealt with in a context broader than domestic partnership."

The problem with family diversity activism based too heavily on partnership issues, said Coleman, is that partnership campaigns have too often taken place "without study, without coalition building." He said he believes that a united effort among gay men and lesbians, step-families, refugee groups, and foster families will

provide the best base for a long-term, substantive change in what "family" means.

Ironically, Coleman said, the mechanism that may spark long-term change was available to him instantly, as soon as he recognized that the "unincorporated, nonprofit organization" statute was what he'd been looking for. Hopefully, he said, the state will soon be flooded with applications for the certificate, sending an undeniable signal to the state government that "family" is a rapidly changing concept.

Coleman said he first realized the possibility of a deluge of registrations when he mailed in an application for himself and his lover this May—the first of its kind. When the certificate came back, said Coleman, he thought, "Eureka! I've struck gold."

Pallish, meanwhile, said she thought that because the change in the state's interpretation of the statute happened almost overnight, the process may turn out to have unexpected benefits. "What if this creates an interesting tax status [for registrees]?" she asked. "That would be a really clever coup."

—filed from Boston



lover. Soon after I went to work in the Delta Reservations Office in Rockville, Md., I fell at work and did permanent damage to the nerves in my right hand. Since that injury, Delta and its worker's compensation insurer, Wausau, have spied on me and my lover, spread lies about me to my neighbors, my landlord, and my former co-workers, and persistently interfered with my receiving medical treatment that I needed. And they have harassed and possibly blackmailed my doctors.

While I was being treated by Dr. David Curfman in Washington for my hand injury, I learned that he had received a phone call from a woman who claimed to be a reporter for the *Washington Blade*, a local gay paper. According to this woman, I had nominated Dr. Curfman for the *Blade's* "Doctor of the Year" award and she was calling to find out if it was okay for someone from the *Blade* to come in his office and interview him for a story in a gay paper. Of course I had made no such nomination and the *Blade* has no such award. But soon after this incident Dr. Curfman declared me healed and refused to treat me any further, citing Wausau's constant interference with his treatment of me, its refusal to pay for many of the treatments he recommended, and because of this "homosexual thing."

In addition, I was instructed by Wausau to see Dr. Brian Schulman for a medical examination of my hand only to discover than Schulman was not a neuro-surgeon but a psychiatrist. He asked me if I was gay, if I had a lover, if we had sex with other people, and if we had been tested for AIDS. He asked where my lover worked (at the time he worked for Senator Paul Simon of Illinois), how much money he made, and other extremely personal questions about my parents, my brothers and sisters, and their personal lives. And he specifically asked about the sexual assault committed upon me while I worked in Atlanta.

After I had completely lost the use of my right hand, arm and shoulder and had been declared 75% functionally disabled by the Maryland Workers Compensation Commission, Delta transferred me to a job in Atlanta—unloading and sorting bags of mail. In transferring me from Montgomery County, Maryland, to Atlanta, Delta moved me from a jurisdiction that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to one that does not.

Throughout all of this, I have repeatedly written to the Chairman of the Board of Delta, to the president of the company, and to the head of the Personnel Department. But every time I got one thing straightened out with my medical treatment or with my receiving the benefits that I was entitled to, someone from Delta or Wausau would come up with some new lie or fraud to make my life impossible again.

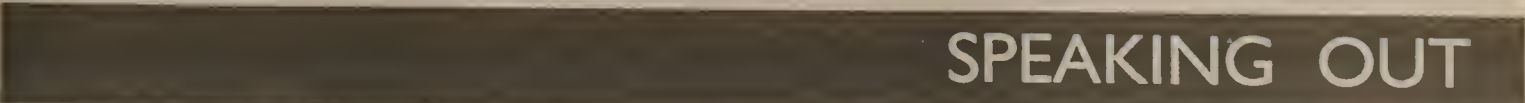
Delta is relying on its old trick of hiding behind its insurance company's skirts while shafting an employee, the way it hid behind its insurance company when it got sued by the family of a gay man who was killed in the Delta crash in Dallas. You will recall the insurer in that case informed the family of the deceased that, if they sued for more than the insurance company wanted to pay, the insurance company would bring out in court that the man was gay and that as a gay man he was more likely to get AIDS and therefore his life was worthless. This is how Delta lets its henchmen treat its gay passengers and gay employees. Delta's ads say that they love to fly and it shows. But the truth is they love to LIE and it shows. And I have the names, dates and documents to prove it, and I have convinced the Georgia Insurance Commissioner's Office to investigate my case.

I would like to hear from other Delta employees who have information about cases similar to mine so I can pass it along to persons who support laws that would make Delta and Wausau pay for the way they have treated me and other gay men and lesbians. In the meantime, anyone interested in finding out what Delta has to say for itself in all of this can write:

Ron Allen
Chairmen of the Board of Delta Airlines
Delta Airlines, Inc.
Hartsfield International Airport
Atlanta, GA 30320
or call him at (404) 765-2581

And one more thing you can do, if you think it is wrong for a company to treat a disabled employee this way and if you object to an airline to intimidate its workers because of their sexuality, then don't fly Delta.

Gary S. Matthews
Washington, D.C.



Criminalizing doctor-patient sex

We are an interdisciplinary group of therapists writing in response to concerns by Ruth Hubbard, Kevin Cathcart and others who question the appropriateness of criminalizing sexual contact between health or mental health professionals and their patients (see *Sojourner*, July 1990 and *GCN*, Aug 17-31, 1990). We believe that criminalization of this behavior, as defined by legislation proposed by a group of 60 professionals, victim/survivors and legislators, will be beneficial to victim/survivors, to the public, and to professionals themselves for the following reasons:

1. *Current laws and regulations are inadequate.* Perpetrators without licenses cannot be stopped from practicing in Massachusetts even if they abuse (sexually or otherwise) many clients, since anyone can practice therapy and many other kinds of health care without a license. We know of many multiple offenders whose licenses have been revoked for unethical behavior who continue to practice and put the public at risk.

2. *Deterrence.* Gary Schoener, a national expert on sexual abuse by therapists, has developed an expertise in evaluating perpetrators and assessing their capacity for rehabilitation. He reported in Boston in 1989 that a substantial number of perpetrators named prison as the one reality that would have stopped them from getting sexually involved with clients/patients.

3. *Sanity for victims.* One of the more healing things a victim/survivor can learn is that what happened to her/him is a felony. Many victim/survivors are severely damaged and don't understand why. Criminalization is a strong message that sexual contact in a therapeutic or health care relationship is unacceptable.

4. *Consent is not the same as informed consent.* The way the legislation is written, consent is not a defense because of the nature of the therapy/health care relationship. People often feel disempowered in the presence of doctors, therapists and other health care providers and cannot assert their full strength to say yes or no to what happens in the treatment. Even efforts to provide informed consent often leave patients confused and overwhelmed. (For example, many women agree to be sterilized, only to report later that they didn't really understand what they had agreed to.) We have worked with close to 300 people who have been

sexually involved with a psychotherapist or other health care provider. Not once has the provider offered enough information about the effects of sexual involvement for the patient to make an informed decision. An informed consent warning would read something like this: "Getting sexually involved with me has a 90% probability of being harmful to you. One percent of people who get sexually involved with their therapists commit suicide. It is likely to take you many years to take you many years to recover. In case you think I might marry you, it's doubtful since I've been involved with other patients before and probably will be in the future. Mainly I'm interested in you for sexual escape and a sense of attention and caretaking and power until I get bored with you. In this relationship, my needs will be primary. Yours will not be considered."

5. *Anyone can be brainwashed.* The legislation is aimed at stopping the worst offenders—people who foster intense dependency in clients, who undermine important relationships in their lives, who set themselves up as the experts who know best what the clients need, and then have so much power that the client has a difficult time getting away, somewhat like battered women staying with their batterers. We are not talking here about the person who has a wart removed in one visit, falls in love with her podiatrist and marries him to live happily ever after. We are talking about extremely sick people in positions of power who take advantage of people in their care. We know of incidents of sexual abuse of patients by their physicians while the patient was hospitalized. If we had seen dozens of people for whom sexual involvement with a helping professional was liberating and empowering, we might have a different perspective on this issue. Unfortunately, our offices are full of the walking wounded—people who are suicidal, have been hospitalized after the sexual involvement, unable to hold their usual jobs, derailed from intimate relationships, unable to get on with their lives as they once had planned.

Regarding non-psychiatric medical procedures, the legislation does not criminalize all sexual involvement between health care providers and their patients. It merely prevents certain kinds of sexual activity (intercourse, fondling of breasts and genitals, etc.) from taking place within

appointments for medical procedure. If a non-psychiatric doctor and patient want to flirt and make a date, that's not a crime. They need only to pursue their sexual relationship apart from the formal medical treatment. The target of this legislation are sexual assaulters whose patients are not in a position to say no.

In the case of *mental health providers*, where emotional dependency is more likely to occur, the provider is prevented from becoming sexually involved with the patient during the period in which she/he is in treatment, including between sessions. Although we believe that post-treatment sexual involvement can be equally devastating to patients, that is not part of this legislation.

Kevin Cathcart of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders is quoted in *GCN* as being concerned that this legislation will be especially used to press charges against gay doctors. Homophobia may exist in the enforcement of any law but we do not believe that this is a reasonable basis on which to reject this legislation. Any health care provider, of any sexual orientation, needs to be held accountable for behavior that puts patients at risk. Our task is to monitor the procedures to assure that remedies designed for justice are not used to create injustice and that all of those who should go to jail go, regardless of their sexual orientation. Since over 80 percent of perpetrators are male perpetrators of female victims, we would expect that the vast majority of people prosecuted under this legislation would be heterosexual males.

In an ideal social order we wouldn't need therapists, informed consent would be a reality and there wouldn't be perpetrators. We would not have large numbers of survivors of child sexual abuse among our clients. The proposed legislation doesn't diminish a patient's right to accept or refuse treatment. Instead, it acknowledges the potential vulnerability of patients and demands that professionals not engage in fraudulent and destructive behavior in the name of treatment.

This speaking out was written by the following professionals: Nancy Avery, Prudence Baxter, Judith Birnbaum, Nancy Bridges, Goldie Eder, David Edelstein, Henry Grunebaum, Judith Grunbaum, Alan Lieberman, Barbara Okun, Edward Yeats, Elizabeth Mark.

We urge you

Dear *GCN*:

We are writing to urge you to write another article about the topic of sex between clients and therapists, especially the issue of legislation banning particular kinds of sexual behavior. The article in the Aug. 17-25 issue was not only misleading, but misrepresented both the problem and proposed legislative solutions in some important respects. Do let us know if another article would be possible—we would like to share other thoughts and views on the whole matter.

Sincerely,
Judy Norsigian
for Boston Women's Health Book Collective
Somerville, Mass.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ISSUE

Would you like to contribute articles, artwork or ideas for our special Black History Month Issue to be published in February? Maybe you'd like to help coordinate this *GCN* tradition and help make this year's Black History Month Issue our very best ever.

Please call Chris Wittke in Features at (617) 426-4469 to discuss ideas, or drop us a line at *GCN* Features, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

SAFER SEX AND DRUG USE GUIDELINES

GCN offers these guidelines for all of us who are making decisions about sex and drug use in the midst of the AIDS epidemic.

HIV is a virus widely thought to be a cause of AIDS. The highest concentrations of HIV are found in blood and semen. So it's important to avoid any way in which HIV-infected blood or semen can get from one person's body into another person's bloodstream.

- Fucking (anal and vaginal) without a condom and sharing needles account for almost all the documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Oral sex without a condom or dental dam accounts for a very few documented cases of HIV transmission.
- Other ways of transmitting HIV that have not been documented but which could be theoretically risky include: fisting, finger fucking, rimming, deep kissing, sharing uncleaned dildos. The theory here is that any way HIV-infected bodily fluids get from one person into another involves risk. For example, HIV could be transmitted if a person with a cut on their hand fistfucked their partner and caused bleeding in their rectum or vagina.

HOW TO PLAY SAFER

Only you can decide what risks you are willing to take. Some people use safer sex practices with all their partners. Other people make decisions about the risks they are willing to take based on their own and their partners' sexual and drug use history and/or HIV status. People also make decisions based on how comfortable they feel negotiating safer sex in any particular situation. If you and your partner have not talked about past practices and/or HIV status, don't make assumptions. (For example, many lesbians have had unprotected intercourse with a man in the last ten years.)

- Use a condom when fucking. On the condoms, use water-based lubricants like KY. Oil-based lubricants like Crisco, Vaseline, and baby oil may make condoms break.
- Use a condom when sucking dick if your partner is going to come in your mouth. If HIV-infected cum or pre-cum gets in your mouth, it may get in your bloodstream through cuts in your gums or sores in your mouth.
- Use dental dams (latex squares) when going down on a woman if she is having her period or has a vaginal infection. Menstrual blood and secretions from vaginal infections have more HIV than healthy vaginal secretions or urine. No information has been gathered about the concentration of HIV in "female ejaculate."
- Use latex gloves for fisting or finger-fucking if you have any sores or cuts on your hands.
- Keep semen and blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) out of your vagina, anus, mouth, or breaks in your skin.
- If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use a new condom each time, or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide or soap and water.
- Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Discuss this risk with potential donors or sperm banks.
- Massage, hugging, dirty talk, role-playing, masturbation (solo, with a partner, in a group) and other activities that don't let blood or semen into your bloodstream are safe.
- Alcohol, poppers or other drugs may lower your ability to make good decisions. Many people have reported that they have been unable to maintain safer sex practices after getting high.
- Good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol and other drugs may help you fight all illnesses, including AIDS.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USE

- Don't share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers)!
- If you must share or re-use works, clean them before and after each injection as follows: dip needle and works into bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into fresh water, draw up and release three times. In an emergency, rubbing alcohol or vodka can be used instead of bleach. Or you can boil works that aren't plastic in water for at least 15 minutes. (Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.)

RESOURCE NUMBERS

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: 1 (800) 235-2331
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York: (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C.: (202) 544-1076
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376

Hate crimes

Continued from page 1

to prosecute gay bashings as civil rights violations, albeit unsuccessfully.

In addition, members of the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and the Fenway Victim Recovery Program met repeatedly with law enforcement officials, including Police Commissioner Francis Roache and Mayor Ray Flynn. At the meetings, activists urged officials to condemn anti-gay violence and to promote greater sensitivity to lesbian and gay issues among members of the police force.

Another group organized last summer by Rep. Byron Rushing (D-South End), the South End Unified Neighbors, attempted to promote greater understanding between members of the Black, Asian, Latino, and/or gay communities by holding a softball game and a march.

While lesbian and gay activists call the passage of the hate crimes statistics act a significant success, many also note that it is only a partial victory because it includes no new penalties for perpetrators of bias-related crimes. Massachusetts lags behind most New England states in hate crime legislation: New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut all passed laws last spring that mandate increased penalties for those found guilty of hate-crimes; and Maine passed bias crimes legislation in 1988 that also increases penalties, though it does not specifically name protected classes of people.

The new Massachusetts law, said Weinerman, is a first step that paves the way for further gains. "Once you have the state and federal government counting these incidents, it will create the impetus to push for tougher anti-hate crimes legislation," he said.

"It's just another tool," echoed Cathy Kaufmann of the Cape and Islands group. "We know that [anti-gay violence] is a problem, but a lot of our law enforcement officials don't," she told GCN. The new law will enable groups to put additional pressure on local law enforcement officials to take the problem seriously, Kaufmann said.

Both Kaufmann's group and the Caucus say they are working on legislation for next year that would increase penalties in Massachusetts for perpetrators of hate crimes.

The gender question

Another issue that is likely to be taken up next year is amending the bill to include crimes against women. Sen. Golden said that he had already filed such legislation.

Feminist groups like the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and local gay and lesbian groups have advocated for including gender in the bill. However, the ADL's Greenberg said she resisted such an amendment because she felt that hate crimes against women were hard to define. She said that when the ADL debated the issue nationally, the group found it impossible to agree upon definitions.

"I'd like to challenge people to come up with a coherent definition of hate crimes against women, so we can hash it out," she said. "Is incest a hate crime? Incest between a father and a son, is that a hate crime based on gender?" asked Greenberg. "As someone who goes out and talks to police officers about hate crimes," she concluded, "I want to be able to give them more than a glib answer." □

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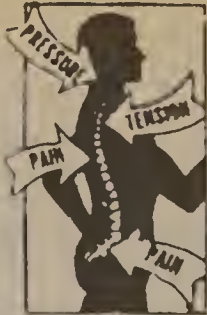
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GCN

BOSTON AREA ADS

SEEKS ROMANTIC, WELL-BUILT GWM. I'm an easygoing, sensitive GWM, 26, 5'10", 150, brown hair, hazel eyes, healthy (HIV neg), affectionate, warm and caring. I like dancing, cooking and quiet times. You're 21-35, attractive, top, romantic and enjoy life's finer things. Call for intimate meeting and possible relationship. Honest inquires only. EXT 7107.

WANTED: OVERWEIGHT (but solid) hairy, very straight-acting, GWM, 28-42, who'd enjoy lots of attention from this 38-year-old (6 ft, 175 lbs), balding GWM in good shape. I like safe times, movies, wine, the beach and staying at home. EXT 7112.

GWM, 23, goodlooking and clean-cut, seeking attractive guy under 34 who's "sweet and gentle" to become friends with in Watertown area. Only drug-free, bright, sincere guy who is real need contact me. Thanks! EXT 7108.

JUST GOOD TIMES wanted by this good-looking, mustached bottom (32, 6'1", 160 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes). You're a hung, good-looking top, 22-40, into bondage, SM, hot wax, WS and are always horny. Masculine jock a plus. I'll submit to your will. EXT 7102.

GOOD-LOOKING BWM, 41, 5'6", 148. Seeks slim top in New Bedford area for occasional hot encounters. EXT 7111.

SINCERE, GOOD-LOOKING GWM, 23, 5'9", 145 lbs, brown hair and blue eyes. Seeking straight appearing guy (18-30) from southern NH or northern MA for friendship and, if the vibes are right, definitely more. Let's make some exciting memories. EXT 7122.

ATTRACTIVE STUDENT. Hard-working, GWM, 24, 5'9", 150 lbs, brown/brown, masculine, in shape but not hung, enjoys tennis, running, working out, reading. Seeking attractive student or young professional in Conn region, 20-30, any race. EXT 7113.

SEXY NUDE! Masculine male, 32, 6'1", 170, tall, slender, toned, exhibitionist, blue eyes. Desires fantasy modeling, role playing, J/O shows, doctor, etc. Seeking imaginative, bright, passive. EXT 7116.

NICE LOOKING, 5'5", 150 lbs, 36, light skin. Seeks a kinda fat guy, any age, clean-shaven, your place and no drugs. Safe times a must. I'm loads of fun, especially hot fun. EXT 7123.

BEAR SUGHT by masculine white male, 30, 5'8", 165 lbs, for weekly safe encounter. I'm in a long-term relationship and seek outside fun. You: tall, masculine, over 200 lbs, discreet, moustache. EXT 7114.

HOT & HORNY BLOND, 23, 5'10", 155 lbs, great body and very good looking. Seeking dominant guy for hot times, maybe more. Into almost anything. Only good looking need respond. EXT 7121.

WHOLE LOTTA FUN! GWM, 35, 5'10", 300 lbs. Seeking a young GWM not turned off by weight. Enjoy music, sports, movies, etc. Not looking for a long-term relationship. EXT 7127.

ATTRACTIVE GWM (27) in good shape, bright, honest, easygoing, stable. I enjoy the outdoors, quiet evenings by the fire-place and movies. A nonsmoking West Coast (Oregon) native. Seek similar handsome, physically fit man of high moral standards for long-term monogamy. EXT 7115.

GAY WHITE MALE: weightlifter, very masculine, South Shore area. Irish-Italian, 40, 5'11", 205 lbs, black/brown, nonsmoker. Seeking similar who's into safe good times. EXT 7103.

GWM, 34, 6'2", 198 lbs, seeks a guy with his act together who likes working out, a good sense of humor and is willing to get to know another guy through touching, hugging, kissing and good body contact. EXT 7126.

WINTER NIGHTS! GWM, 32, 5'7", 148, clean cut, good looking, sincere, looking for a "regular kinda guy" (clean cut with good shape and looks), 26-30. Initially as a friend and who knows. It needn't be a cold winter! EXT 7117.

HUNGRY BOTTOM wants top man, in shape, hung, ready to fill me with fun. I'm 31, 5'10", 160 lbs, masculine and ready. EXT 7118.

HANDSOME GBM, 29, 6'2", 215 lbs, handsome (with receding hairline), muscular, not always masculine. Looks for the good feelings a relationship can bring. Like good talk, movies, dancing. You: 21-45 and looking for the same. EXT 7104.

GBM seeks straight-acting SBM/GBM for friendship and possible relationship. Must be discreet. EXT 7101.

SEXY, AFFECTIONATE, GWM, seeks pretty young men for dating, romance, and safe sex for your great buns. You must be cute, lovable, positive attitude. Give it a shot. EXT 7119.

DOWNTOWN GUY, 36, 5'10", 150 lbs, works out. Clean cut, clean-shaven. Seeking local with relationship on his mind. I like sports, theatre, arts, nightlife. No smoke or drugs. EXT 7105.

LATIN LOVER WANTED by GWM, 24, 5'11", 176, blond/blue eyed. Seeks monogamy with guy 25-30 with sense of humor and honesty. Teach me your language. EXT 7106.

STRAIGHTACTING, GWM (29, 5'10", 155 lbs), handsome, Italian, clean-shaven. Seeks similar male, 18-33, who enjoys music, travel, hot times and monogamy. Clean-shaven, boyish, nonsmoker a plus. EXT 7124.

PROVIDENCE- NEW BEDFORD Never Thought I'd write ad. Tired of checking someone out at bars pretending not to be interested. Missed opportunity? GWM, (30, 5'10", 160 lbs), top, good looking. You: attractive, decent body, 21-35, honest. Dating? Want more? EXT 7120.

U CARE? I CARE - GWM, 30, physically fit, spontaneous, communicative, honest, with broad interests. I am professional with high aspirations and goals. Seeking an emotionally giving, professional, physically fit, no drugs or smoking, with an open mind and heart. EXT 7130.

OUT OF TOWN ADS

HORNY WITH SOLID BODY. Italian GWM, 44, 58, 220 lbs, wants a hot top, 35-45, into love, passion and romance. I love to dance and make romance. Cut a plus. EXT 7037.

GAM, 22, 5'5", 140 lbs. I am straight acting and like travel, movies, hiking. Looking for white male, 22-32, who is fun, confident, independent. EXT 7056.

SEXY, AFFECTIONATE older brother, GWM, bearded, 36, solid, mainly top, seeking affectionate, attractive, masculine younger brother/buddy for playful safe times. Talk, touch, hold, make love. Fantasies welcome (let me know). No commitment required, just honesty. EXT 7045.

BODYBUILDER, 5'10", 195 lbs, 43, seeks other muscle stud. Prefer over 35, over 6' and over 200 lbs. EXT 7006.

UNINHIBITED, EXHIBITIONISTIC top sought by artist for photography project. EXT 7002.

GBM DESIRED FOR THE ART OF mutual romance, sensitivity, humor, passion, fun, affection and respect. Me: GWM, 5'6", blond/blue, 145 lbs. Manhattan professional, very attractive. EXT 7004.

SINCERE. WM, 35, 6'1", 185 lbs, handsome, masculine, works out. Career-oriented business professional but hot and creative. Humorous, probing and supportive. Seeks similar, very tall guy for explosive action, caring friendship and/or long-term relationship. Call EXT 7038.

WHAT'S YOUR FANTASY? GWM, 45, wants to help you play out your wildest and most secret fantasies. We all have them. Stop keeping them to yourself. Now's the time to play them out and have a good time. EXT 7050.

HUNGRY BOTTOM wants Top Man in shape, athletic and/or muscular (body-builder) to fill me with fun. Me: 25, 5'8", 155 lbs, athletic, attractive, nice build. For fun, friendship and/or relationship. EXT 7051.

GOOD-LOOKING ITAL-AMER, 38, almost 5'11", 180 lbs, HTLV neg, honest, caring and bright. Seeking tall, devoted, straight-looking and acting, blue-eyed guy interested in building a relationship based on trust, spiritual love and monogamy. Care about tomorrow today. EXT 7034.

HOT, HUNG TOP WANTED by WM, 45, 6', 175 lbs, hairy. Pump my tight hole so long and hard that I can't walk or sit when you're done. EXT 7011.

ATTRACTIVE GWM (Queens resident), 40, 5'11", 165 lbs. Masculine, sensitive, affectionate, passionate, romantic. Healthy. No bars. Looking for young guy (to age 40) for close friend, sensible intimacy. Potentially permanent, monogamous relationship. No workaholics, phones, bisexuals. EXT 7032.

MARRIED BLACK MEN WANTED for discreet, safe encounters by masculine black man, 6'3", 195 lbs, clean cut and discreet. EXT 7019.

MYSTERIOUS, exotically handsome Eurmale, 24, green eyes, long dark hair, 6'1", slim, sexy, romantic, stylish, sophisticated. Into arts and adventures. Seeks right man for intimate encounters with possibility of relationship. EXT 7044.

VERY GOOD-LOOKING GBM, 33, 5'10", 160 lbs, seeks GB/LM 20-26, masculine. Flexibility a must. Healthy, handsome, intelligent, ambitious. No cigs or drugs and fun-loving disposition. EXT 7049.

HEAVY SET GWM, cute, 40s. Blond hair, blue eyes. Would like to meet GWM or BWM for fun and good times. All serious replies answered. EXT 7007.

BONDAGE! Hot, aggressive, muscular jock, 36, 6'4", 205 lbs. Seeks masculine dude for intense, creative bondage, endurance, SM, frat hazing scenes. 8e in shape, hanging touch and ready to experience safe, hot, sweaty bondage. Mostly top, but mutual possible. EXT 7031.

EVER-WILD, EVER-PEACEFUL GBM, striking, 28, 6'1", 200 lbs, hairy, very muscular, HIV neg, juicy. Seeks hot-looking, in-shape guy to 37 for possible lover. The man I crave doesn't show off his hot body to get noticed. He uses his eyes and his character. We'll do the rest. EXT 7010.

HANDSOME, HOT, HAIRY, 40-year-old Italian GBM, 6'2", 160 lbs, dark, trim, active brain, filthy mind. Seeks horny muscular bottom 30-45 for safe, steamy fun. EXT 7020.

VERY GOOD-LOOKING light-skinned black (6', 175 lbs) into sports, relationship. Seeks attractive independent-type (20-25 years). Any race. EXT 7012.

HANDSOME STUDENT. GWM, 20, 5'10", 150 lbs, black/brown, into singing, travel, theater, WDRE. Seeks similar (18-25) for friendship, more with right guy. Honesty, laughter, caring. No drugs, smoke or fraudulent attitudes. EXT 7048.

TALL, VERY ATTRACTIVE GBM, 26, muscular (solid) build. Into safe times and J/O specials with guys with big round protruding belly only. No grossly overweights. Tall a plus, but necessary. Any race. EXT 7003.

INTO HOT ACTION, muscle, sweat, feet, leather with other in-shape hot guy or group. Me: GWM bodybuilder, 33, moustache. Call. EXT 7041.

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HOT, MASCULINE GWM, 30s. Hung, smooth butt, dark blond hair, blue eyes, 6', 170 lbs. (Top man a plus.) Safe only. Do yourself a favor...call EXT 7043.

CIGAR-SMOKING OAOY needs head. Boy: 5'10" or under, facial hair, not overweight. Daddy: 38, beard. EXT 7039.

HOT FRENCH GBM, 38, 5'10", 143 lbs, good looking, seeks GWM, 30-50, attractive, warm, loving, responsible, honest, healthy. For relationship and good times. No drugs. EXT 7047.

GENTLE, PEACEFUL, HIGHLY GIFTED, life-affirming, good-looking Italian, 42 (5'5", slim), seeks very affectionate, masculine, unselfish soulmate ready for abiding relationship. EXT 7018.

AFFECTIONATE TDP. Tall, gym-trim, intelligent, caring, goatee. Seeks masculine, in-shape guy 25-50 for bed and breakfast. Big a plus: Latin, smart, stable, wit. EXT 7042.

HEAVYSET GM, 40+, sought by clean, attractive, masculine GBM, 25, for safe hot meetings. Race unimportant. Tall a plus. Hairy a plus. EXT 7017.

GWM, a member of HCM, seeks other GWM members of HCM for friendship. EXT 7057.

INCREDIBLE THROAT. Hot, worked-out body and a creative mind possessed by this hunky, handsome, married guy, 45, 170 lbs, bearded. Wants to please well-built guy with thick B+. Any race. Your NYC place. EXT 7033.

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50-YEAR-OLD TODDLER needs to be watered down and fed by experienced Dad. Me: good looking, good chest, quiet, shy. You: 30+. Looks and race unimportant. Good head trip necessary. Smoke, aroma a plus. EXT 7054.

INTERACIAL GJM, 41, 5'10", 155 lbs, brown hair, sparkling blue eyes--cute and lovable. Desires very masculine, nonsmoking top black man mature and sensitive for cool nights with soulful music and memorable days. EXT 7005.

SUPERHUNG (honest!) attractive GWM, 36, seeks guy for BIG J/O. Looks and build not as important as size and attitude. EXT 7055.

GWM, 46, 155 lbs, seeks a big gut guy who enjoys overeating, beer, drink, smoke, some aroma. Big belly, 50ish man only. EXT 7016.

MAN, 50, 5'7", 153 lbs, well built, rugged good looks, bearded, bald, tattooed, well hung, tactile, imaginative and a nice guy. You: a man together mentally and physically. Talk to me! EXT 7014.

WEIGHT LIFTER, masculine, muscular Italian, 31, 5'11", 190 lbs. Short curly hair, handsome face, easygoing nature. Would like to meet an older, generous, well-off man for friendship. I enjoy most things, especially the outdoors. EXT 7040.

GYM SHAPE. Hot 'n' hairy motorcyclist GWM, 43, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/brown, nonsmoking, varied interests (Duplicate Bridge to dancing). Seeks another hot GWM for... EXT 7001.

EUROPEAN GWM WANTED by good-looking Italian, 35, 5'8", 147 lbs, sexy bod, dark hair/eyes, healthy, affectionate, warm. If you're 18-30, cute, sensitive, affectionate, shy and like art, classical music, passionate/romantic times, please call EXT 7009.

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OUT OF TOWN ADS

GWF, 24, social worker, enjoys long meaningful conversations, music, poetry and walks in the Village. Seeks honest, intelligent and caring GF, 20s-40s, for friendship and whatever may develop. No substance abusers. EXT 7065.

BIBF seeks Bif or willing GF to share laughter and warm moments. I am 25, feminine, attractive and a shapely, full-bodied, mature woman. If you are open-minded and real, give it a try. EXT 7072.

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POP GOES 1990

BY CHRISTOPHER WITTKE

From Erasure to Morrissey to The
Flirtations, gay boys everywhere were
recording tasty and nutritious ear candy
that made a bleak year a little bit brighter



Morrissey

I remember standing in front of my family's bulky black-and-white television set with a plastic Beatles guitar slung over my shoulder. I was wearing hand-me-down pajamas with feet on them and the whole family was gathered around waiting for Ed Sullivan to introduce the Beatles to the United States.

There was constant screaming from the teenagers in the studio audience which created a certain nervousness in my stomach and combined with my own excitement at the thought of the Fab Four singing live on our own television. When Ed Sullivan announced, "Here they are, The Beat-les," the only thing I could possibly do to control my body was to clutch the Beatles guitar and fart audibly.

In a bemused combination of shock and disgust, my family chanted my name in unison (the only time before or since then that they all got together on anything) but I was in orbit, shaking my butt and inventing the concept of air guitar right in my own living room. While I was sure the flatulence problem had passed, as it were, I found myself even more frightened by the screaming Beatlemaniacs during "She Loves You." When the Mop Tops shook their mop tops at the "Wo-o-o-o-o" parts, the pitch rivaled a fleet of taxiing jets. I burst into tears in excitement and terror at my own unnameable attraction to Paul McCartney, the Cute One. I was four years old at the time and a faggot in the making.

Since then, good pop music has continued to have a strong effect on my body and has occupied a larger chunk of my imagination than that of many of the rock-and-roll lovers I grew up with. I was in seventh grade when Elton John released "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and I remember fantasizing about seeing Elton naked as I jerked off to his tune "Jamaica Jerk Off." Two years later I was in love with Queen (who's surprised?), especially the "Sheer Heart Attack" album with its cover photo of lead singer Freddie Mercury in unzipped pants. I spent a lot of time just staring at that cover, amazed that a pop star could be so self-revelatory that he would show us, his hungry audience, his pubic hair.

As we've grown older, many of my friends from those days (most of them straight) have become more serious about the music they listen to. Some have become jazz or classical

freaks, others like quiet, "serious" stuff like Joni Mitchell, and I've lost a couple to the Grateful Dead. All are aghast at the fact that I have never really "grown" beyond my absolute obsession with a good pop song. Pop: catchy, clever, hummable, disposable. They don't understand how I can worship Madonna and Prince, adore the Pet Shop Boys, feel nostalgic about the Human League, and make what they see as arbitrary distinctions between "good" and "bad" pop while loving an inordinate amount from the latter category. Well, they're straight and there's just no way to explain anything to them.

On the other hand, there seems to be an awful lot of gay men out there who remember the importance and sheer joy of the perfect pop song. And in 1990 many of them managed to release albums (or compact discs, or cassettes or what-have-you) of their very own. Some of these gay men are less out about their sexuality than others and some of them work with straight colleagues, but all of them have had an impact on more than one gay listener I know. Every single one of these recordings made the world a better place in 1990, if only because we could strap on headphones and use their tunes to block out the horrors around us.

Morrissey. "Bona Drag." (Sire/Reprise)

"The Smiths were a red beacon of hope flashing for the kids all throughout Thatcher's England," British scribe Simon Watney said in a conversation during last October's Harvard Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference. The Smiths were also probably the best British pop band of the '80s. With their brooding and allegedly celibate gay singer, Morrissey, the band took independent record-label success to a pinnacle never imagined before. The prolific group released countless singles and a handful of masterpiece albums before internal struggles broke it apart. The Smiths live on however, with album-cover art splashed across the T-shirts of countless melancholy college students. They still have an influence on contemporary pop and recently were even sampled directly onto Soho's unworthy dance track "Hippychick," which lifts its guitar riff from The Smiths' splendid "How Soon Is Now?"

After the break-up, Morrissey, of course, spun off into his own solo recording orbit and released one original album "Viva Hate," and a new collection "Bona Drag." This recent release compiles songs and b-sides that Morrissey has issued as 12-inch singles over the past three years, and one new song.

Oh well, rabid fans who collect everything the guy releases must feel mighty ripped off; but those who don't have a real treat in store. Morrissey's stock in trade is to strike a pose of alienation and misery and set it to an infectious guitar-driven melody. Alternately self-pitying and self-effacing, more than a handful of former teen-queens and baby-dykes I know actually have used Morrissey as a beacon of hope in a disaffected world, and this album will probably continue that phenomenon.

The new song "Piccadilly Palare" kicks off "Bona Drag" with an upbeat tempo and lyrics about life as a boy hustler: "On the rack I was/'easy meat'/but a reasonably good buy/a reasonably good buy/ ... you wouldn't understand/good sons like you/NEVER DO/ ... it may all end tomorrow/or, it could go on forever/(in which case: I'm doomed)...." What pathos, what punctuation, what a great song!

Most of the rest of the album consists of big British hits that probably have been heard in this country only by alternative music fans and queens (like me) and dykes who love Morrissey. What's interesting about the collection is that the sort of crazy-quilt manner in which it was put together does not detract from the whole. (In fact, "Bona Drag" is a more cohesive album than "Viva Hate.")

"Interesting Drug" thumbs its nose at yuppies and married heteros: "There are some bad people on the rise/they're saving their own skins by ruining people's lives/bad, bad people on the rise/Young married couple in debt — ever felt had?" "The Last of the International Playboys" is a critique of gangster celebrities written in the

Moment On." Apparently Somerville is just a tad too defiant for some people: his video of "From This Moment On" somehow didn't make the cut, as ABC edited the "Red Hot & Blue" video special to ribbons before it was broadcast on Dec. 1.

"Read My Lips" is infused with the same sort of political consciousness that undoubtedly gave the ABC censors pause. (For even more lefty sentiment from

combined. In past interviews, however, they have referred to their sound as "specifically gay disco," and their lyrics have that certain queenly something that lead singer Neil Tennant sings with an adorable sibilance.

This is the first Pet Shop Boys album that isn't jam-packed with synth-pop dance numbers from beginning to end. The Boys experiment instead with a couple of songs that are slow and introspective — and not

Every single one of these recordings
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Somerville, search out the extended remix version of his fab cover of Sylvester's "You Make Me Feel [Mighty Real]," which is backed by a pro-Sandinista track called "Not so God Almighty.") Using that famous falsetto as well as his more "natural" register, Somerville has produced an album that is easily the best — and gayest — synthesizer-based pop release of the year.

very successful at all. "My October Symphony" is easily the worst song on the album, written from the point of view of a Russian communist uneasy about the changes brought on by glasnost. From the Pet Shop Boys??? It just doesn't work, and there's no reason it should.

On the other hand, there *are* some really terrific dance grooves to be found in songs like the first single "So hard" (oh really?) and "How can you expect to be taken seriously?" which is a half-assed critique of rock stars jumping on cause-of-the-week bandwagons. This is probably how the Pet Shop Boys rationalized not appearing on "Red Hot & Blue."

The best song on the album is "Being boring," which quotes Zelda Fitzgerald and is a moving tribute to Tennant's art school friends who have died of AIDS. Looking over the stages of his life, the singer reminisces about the creative and sexual energy he had shared with his buddies. This jolt of reality comes toward the end of the song: "Now I sit with different faces/In rented rooms in faraway places/All the people I was kissing/Some are here and some are missing/In the 1990s/I never dreamt that I would get to be/The creature that I always meant to be/But I thought in spite of dreams/You'd be sitting somewhere here with me." Okay, so maybe the Pet Shop Boys *are* ready for deeper lyrics, because "Being Boring" is a terrific song (and soon to be released as a single and video).

And maybe the Pet Shop Boys are ready to officially come out. How else to explain the song "It Must Be Obvious," which appears on the b-side of the "So Hard" remix 12" single and that features this tell-all lyric: "Everyone knows when they look at us/Of course they do/It must be obvious." Of course we do.

The Flirtations.

(Significant Other).

Even if this weren't the best overall gay boy album of the year — which it is — it would certainly earn a place in the upper echelons by virtue of its grassroots status. Five men, five beautiful voices, a collection of one original and 14 cover songs (some more pop than others but I still love them all), and no instrumentation (save a bongo here and there). This is a hot *a capella* group with a gay sensibility worn proudly on their sleeves. What more could a queen ask for?

The Flirtations cause a sensation wherever they perform. It's easy to see why: they know how to pick songs to cover and somehow put their own flirtatious twist on them.

Would you expect Brian Wilson's "Surfin' USA" to become an openly gay song? The Flirtations become The Beach Queens by virtue of a couple of gender switches and the inclusion of such hot spots as Fire Island and Key West.

They have lots of fun with The B-52's "Housework," which was already a camp classic lament when Kate Pierson sang this song about how helpful it can be to have a man around the house, at least for cleaning purposes. Hearing five queenly voices singing "Housework" only drives the lampooning of stereotypical gender roles that much further.

By covering such early rock-and-roll classics as "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" and "To Know Him is to Love Him," The Flirtations place themselves squarely in the pop *a cappella* company of The Nylons and The Bobs, two groups who are decidedly less-open about their sexuality. I guess to know The Flirtations is to love them, too.

The group also offers beautiful renditions of more "serious" music, some of which is breathtakingly beautiful. Their cover of Peter Gabriel's "Wallflower" is stunning as is their rendition of Fred Small's "Everything Possible."

But the fact is there is nothing on this record that isn't fabulous, whether it be Michael Callen's sweet high notes or Jon Arterton's deft vocal arrangements. If some of the songs are immediately unforgettable, their less-immediate counterparts rise up with repeated listenings as subtle and pride-filled real life-vignettes.

The entire exercise is closed off with the one original tune, "The Flirt Song," written by Flirt Jon Arterton. If there were any justice in the world, this ditty would be used as the theme song to The Flirtations' variety series (which would have to be on Fox-TV). Or better yet, if the New Kids on the Block can have their own Saturday Morning cartoon, so should The Flirtations.

This is an impressive debut recording, the first of many if we're lucky. It also stands as a sparkling tribute to Flirtation T.J. Meyers, who died of AIDS-related complications a few months after the record's release. Get this record, and see the group if you have the chance. □



The Flirtations

form of a love letter to the Kray brothers (yes, of "The Krays"), while "Ouija Board, Ouija Board" sounds like a chamber music seance.

There are also songs on the album that were the flip-sides of hit singles. There are tunes like "He Knows I'd Love to See Him," "Will Never Marry," and (in case you aren't getting the message from Mr. M's choice of song titles) the stupendous "Hairdresser on Fire." This song, the best on the album, tells the tale of a man who knows that his "repressed but ... remarkably dressed" hairdresser could supernaturally change his life — if only he could get an appointment.

Word is that there may be an album released as early as this Spring containing all new Morrissey material, but I would not suggest that we all hold our collective breath until that happens. Instead, I would recommend searching out the Warner Home Video release of "Hulmerist," a collection of conceptual videos of the hits from "Bona Drag," strung together with documentary footage from the only British concert Morrissey has performed in years. The shots of British kids sleeping in the streets for days just to get the chance to see Morrissey perform live (and maybe invade the stage with flowers for their hero) is astounding and perfectly illustrates Simon Watney's assertion that this man is a beacon of hope for a lot of people who might not otherwise have any. Plus, you can dance to him.

Jimmy Somerville. "Read My Lips."

(London/Polygram)

Released early in the year, I'm happy to report that "Read My Lips" holds up after repeated listenings (thereby earning its place in my "good pop" column). It is also, to my knowledge, the only album titled after an ACT UP T-shirt.

The defiantly gay Somerville also appears on the Cole Porter tribute album "Red Hot & Blue" with a searing rendition of "From This

Erasure. "Wild!"

(Sire/Reprise).

Erasure is a two-person, synth-pop group featuring admitted-heterosexual Vince Clarke and flaming homo Andy Bell. Years back, when Jimmy Somerville had hit the big time with his famous first band Bronski Beat (who allegedly have a new lead singer and are preparing a new album, but that's another story), the brand-new Erasure was appearing at an event with the Bronskis. Popular legend has it that the then-closeted Bell approached Bronski Beat and asked the group how to go about coming out.

These several years later, it's hard to believe that this British son of Liberace was ever closeted. On stage he is prone to wearing outfits ranging from silver mylar hot pants to feathered tributes to Big Bird.

But what about the music you ask? It's sweet and catchy and danceable, with musical hooks that grab onto your brain and never let it go. "Wild!" features gay dance club hits, "Star," "Drama!" and "Blue Savannah." The lyrics (which are Bell's contributions to the songs) aren't particularly queer, more like pronoun-free poetry about love and loneliness.

All this considered, it's amazing that Erasure's version of Cole Porter's "Too Darn Hot" was broadcast on ABC's "Red Hot & Blue" special (albeit at 12:55 a.m.) replete with shots of politically explicit ACT UP protests. Wonders will never cease and as long as Erasure stays together, they'll never lose their gift for an infectious hook.

Pet Shop Boys. "Behavior."

(EMI)

The Pet Shop Boys are yet another synth-pop duo, albeit one that is not quite out of the closet. Perhaps this accounts for the group's worldwide sales success which has been much greater than Bronski Beat, Jimmy Somerville's solo work and Erasure



Pet Shop Boys

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PO Box 11, Cambridge, MA
02238 Events phone:
(617) 926-2536

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Certified Public Accountant
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WOMEN'S NIGHT CLUBS

INDIGO - A Club for Women
823 Main St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 497-7200 Th. 4, PM-2
AM, F 4 PM-2 AM, Sat. 9 PM-
2 AM, Sun. 9 PM-1 AM

Something special

The members of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus sing their little hearts out



Robert Barney, BGMC's Music Director

Reviewed by Lenny Goldstein

There's really something special about attending a queer concert, especially around the holidays. When the members of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) sang their little hearts out for the annual Holiday Concert, it affirmed for me what every former choir boy and budding baritone always suspected. You were not the only one to smile knowingly as your high school chorus sang about "donning gay apparel," or to wonder if that sweet tenor from Pakistan who stood across the stage is "looking" too. Let me assure you that he most probably was and you may meet up with him again at a Pride rally, a bar or on stage singing with a gay men's chorus.

At this year's BGMC Holiday concert, the gay subtexts that many chorus directors and singers choose to ignore soared to the forefront. The homocultural words of Walt Whitman ("Invocation and Dance") and composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim ("Our

Time") were not hidden by homophobia. Instead they were celebrated and embraced by a knowing community and audience. It was okay to laugh conspiratorially as we blessed "the Master of this house, likewise the Mistress too" in "Here We Come A-wassailing." Here was a time to affirm ourselves, for once to acknowledge and to claim our gay contributions to music and culture.

At a time when many of us are forced to realize the distance between ourselves and our family of origin, the holiday concert provided a special time to gather and celebrate with our family of choice. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus is more than a collection of singers who entertain us, they invite us into a safer place: they invite us to come home. □



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January 23 - 27, 1991

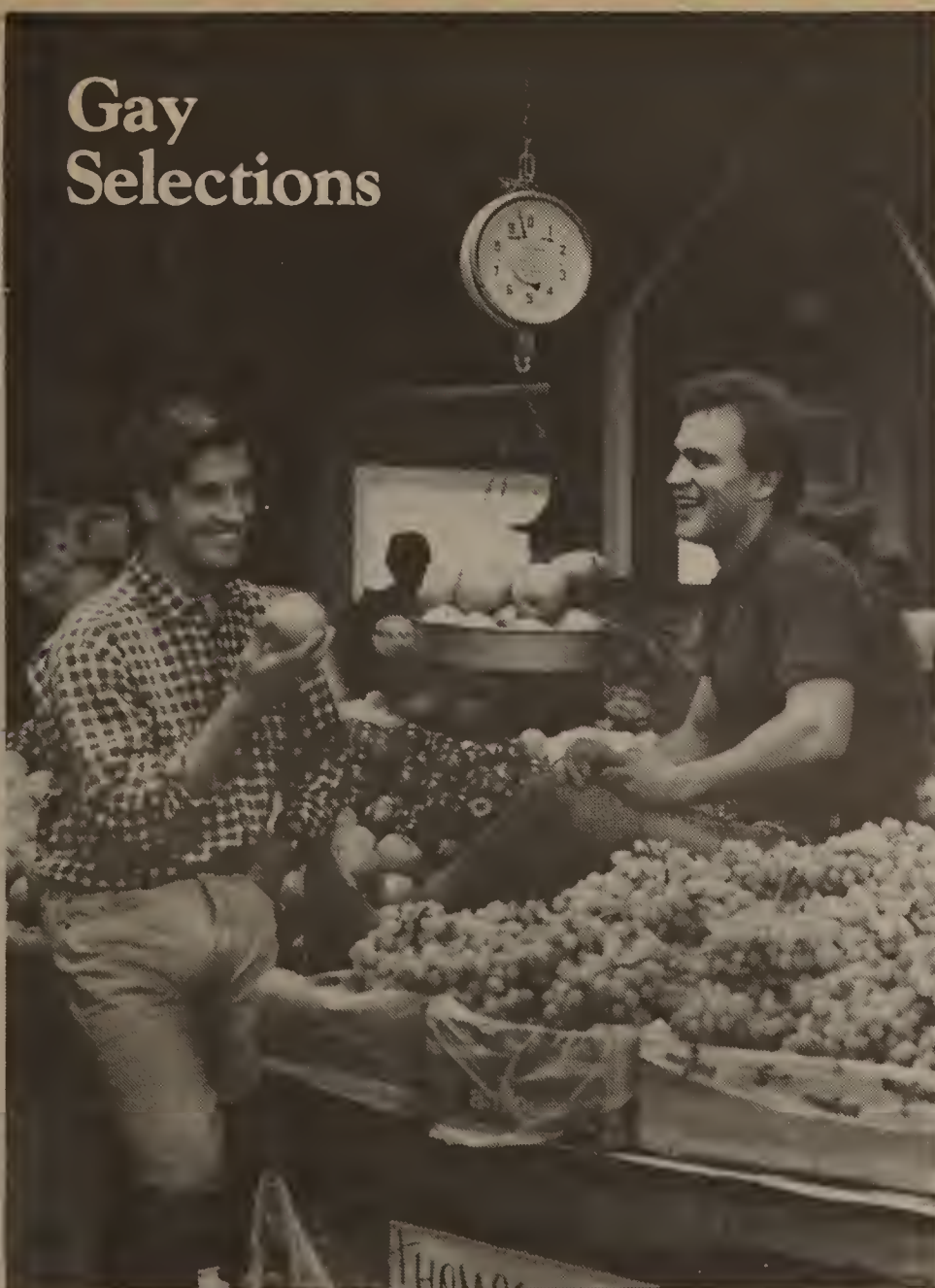
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BRIGHTON-OAK SQ.

2L seek woman to share 3BR apt. Convenient to T, bus, laundromat, video store. Free parking on the street. No smoke, pets. \$330+ util. 782-3567 (22)

SOMERVILLE/TEELE SQUARE

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2 lesbians & cat seek LF or GM for large 3 floor apt. Off street parking. Alcohol & chem free. Steps to buses, 10 min to Harvard Sq. Avail. now. 350+. 923-4370. (23)

JAMAICA PLAIN

3 LF's seek 4th for our veggie, coop, political, goofy home. 25+ near orange and green lines. No alcohol/drugs. Available now. Call 522-9351. (23)

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For cozy, ground floor apt. on tree-lined street. 10 min. bus ride to Harvard, parking, laundry. Rent \$325. 30's, independent, friendly. 864-4314 (22)

JAMAICA PLAIN NEAR ARBORETUM

Lesbian 30's and cat seek same for 2BR and study near stores, laundry, T. Independent, friendly, no smoking or more pets. \$397.50 includes heat 522-6012 (22)

Ecofeminist co-op with passion for popcorn, recycling, shared meals seeks L/BiF. \$330+. Near Davis Square. Available now. Call 628-0878 or 623-0703. No pets, drugs, smoke. Min. alcohol. (23)

LF w/2 dogs seeks LF 28+ for 5-rm Somerville apt. near Davis T. Indep, friendly. No more pets, no smoke, drugs min. alcohol. \$300+ 628-4632 (22)

LET'S CREATE OUR OWN SPACE IN JP

LF (& 2 cats) looking for 1 or 2 LF in to seek and share apt/home together. Call Susan 522-5123 (22)

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I need a responsible, pet-loving person/s to houseit and take care of my dog and cat for March and April (dates somewhat flexible). Very comfortable 4 1/2 room JP condo in 6- family triple decker. Next to arb, close to green+orange line. You'd need to pay rent, but amount negot. Call 522-7720 +lv. msg.

F/M roommate wanted to live w/ LF in large Allston apt. \$425/mo. Apt. is huge w/2 porches, GIK LR & DR, in all gay bldg. No smoking/ drugs. Call Terri 782-2665 (22)

JAMAICA PLAIN

LF seeks 1 LF 25+. Great apartment. Room for rent is very small. \$150+ no smoke. No pets. Min. Alcohol. Call 524-3793 (22)

2 men, 1 woman seek 4th for house in J.P. Yard, parking, near T. No pets. We smoke cigs. \$290 plus utilities. Call 522-7054 (23)

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1 BR modern kitchen, patio quiet area near everything. No fee \$600 plus utilites 508 957-7460 evenings. (23)

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FOR SALE

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Silverwolf, by Roger Edmonson. Science fiction/fantasy. Clues point to the culprit in a grisly string of murders. A gay werewolf? \$10.45 postpaid.

Home Again, Home Again; by Jane Eiseman. An intriguing romance set in the nineteenth century. Two women overcome prejudice to be together. \$10.45 postpaid.

Intricate Passions, edited by Tee Corinne. Erotic short fiction by twenty-five lesbian writers. Lambda Literary Award Winner. \$10.45 postpaid.

Catalog of books we publish for lesbians and gay men on request.

These books are available from your community bookseller or by mail from:

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#292, P.O. Box 33280; Austin, TX 78764

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PUBLICATIONS

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to BLACK/OUT, c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219.(ex)

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$12 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139.(16.33)

With incisive reporting and thoughtful analysis IN THESE TIMES offers the very best in alternative American journalism. We've built our reputation on addressing the issues the mainstream media ignores, and that's why our unique point-of-view has been trusted by thousands of readers for over a decade. Why not see for yourself? You may order a subscription by calling 800-435-0715 (in Illinois call 800-892-0753) or by writing to IN THESE TIMES, 1912 Debs Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.(17.36)

WOMEN OF POWER: Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$26 for 4 issues, single issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885.(ex)

BREAKTHROUGH!

Political journal of Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Spring 1989 issue. Women of the Philippine Revolution Interview with Makibaka; The Post-Feminist Mystique speech by PISD (People with Immune System Disorders); Crack and Black Youth. \$3 including postage. John Brown Book Club, POB 1422, San Francisco, CA 94114

ON OUR BACKS

The sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 49 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$28/year sub/\$6 single issue. ON OUR BACKS, 526 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181.(ex)

Do you need facts about menopause? Does the stereotyping of older women make you angry? Do you want to be part of an Older Feminists Network? Broomstick, a bimonthly national magazine by, for and about women over forty. Annual subs (US funds only) U.S. \$15, Canada \$20, Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sliding scale available. Sample copy \$3.50. 3543 18 St. 33, San Francisco, CA 94110.

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$10.00, 30 more issues to Lesbians, 504 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsjournal. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news - on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians and women from every continent. \$15/11 issues. \$6 plus \$1 postage. 2423 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009(ex)

VACATIONS

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WATERSHIP INN

Rustic cozy inn one half block from Provincetown harbor, free continental breakfast, parking, most rooms w/private bath OPEN YEAR ROUND. 7 Winthrop Street Provincetown, MA 02657. (508) 487-0094. TJ

PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS



New HIV/AIDS groups starting up inside this prison. We need reading material badly, information about AIDS. Please send your old AIDS periodicals that you've already read, or you brand new material to Mike, at Redbook, 92 Green St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, so he can forward them. (The prison doesn't allow reading material to come from individuals, only bookstores.) THANKS!

Black gay Queen, will like to write to other gays inside prisons or on the outside for lifelong true friendship. Please don't write one letter and then stop. (Get well, Mike, you mean a lot to us gay girls.) John (Boojack) ROYAL, 117208, Box 500, Boynton VA 23917.

Gay male with fondness for other gay males and TV/TS persons. I enjoy music, dancing, poetry, martial arts, and collecting photographs. Joseph HOPPER, PO Box 78426, Florence AZ 85232.

I would like to develop top quality, on-going mail friendships with prisoner college students. Chris CHARLES, Box 19602, Cincinnati OH 45219.

If you are seeking a real friendship of trust and understanding, then look no further. So am I! Gender and race not important. Please write. Daniel BITTER, R144774, Box 56, Lebanon ON 45036.

I am 26, from Puerto Rico, and interested in writing readers of GCN. Quiet, nice looking, good hearted. (Thank you for sending me the paper!) Jaime ORTIZ, 24352, Box 208, Indian Springs NV 89070.

Openly gay prisoner, 26, seeks correspondence with others who are lonely and in need of a caring friend as I am. John CRAFT, 900145, Box 900, Shelton WA 98584.

GM, 23, interested in joys of meeting new people, and keeping and open mind. Looking for friendship. Can write other prisoners. Michael WESTERMEYER, 93812, Hwy 146, LaGrange KY 40032

I've had only two relationships and both were with TVs and were beautiful! I'd like to meet someone about my size (5'8", 160) who likes to act a little more feminine than masculine. Any race is ok. I seek affection and friendship. James REDMOND, 03277-045, Unit 23, 71 W Van Buren, Chicago IL 60605.

GM, 28, in good physical condition, needing a friend for correspondence. Don't want you money, just some friendship and conversation. Don JAMES, Box 215, Maury, NC 28554.

I'm a 27 yr old GM who likes the outdoors, rock n roll, country music and classical, am open minded and a free spirit (when not locked down too long!) Ronald HAY, D00493, PO Box 7500, Crescent City CA 95532.

ORGANIZATIONS

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 1-800-42-BAGLY for info.(15.32)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174.(15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 174, New York, NY 10018(7)

"TO ALL THOSE IN AND OUT OF PRISON, WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE"

Alexander Berkman,

Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

WOMEN SEEKING FRIENDS



I'm 31, looking for a lady to drive my loneliness away. Can't write to other prisoners. If you're out there and looking for someone who has some understanding, please write. Cindy JOHNSON, 110615, Box 11492, MBCC, Oklahoma City OK 73136.

I'm 27, Black and incarcerated. I want to write someone that is free and who wants to write someone that will be total free. Cynthia PERRY, 204841, 3511 Bemis Rd, Ypsilanti MI 48197

GF, 30. Love sports and outdoors. Would like a penpal. I'm doing a little time, so I'm lonely. Stacy SHEPPARD, 24398, 32363 Hwy 79, Warner Springs CA 92086.

I'm 23, but very mature, and would like a friend or two. I like to draw, and I'm very humorous. Sandra BALDWIN, 161034, PO Box 8540, #371, Pembroke Pines FL 33024



GM, 24, wants to hear from a transsexual from the outside world. Looking for a friend who will help me turn myself into a transsexual too. Please reply to Richard HAMMOND, 98995, Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.

40 yr old prisoner (don't let my age fool you). Picture a '50 Cadillac, needs a little body work, but engine straight out the the showroom. Would enjoy hearing from drag queens, pre-op TSs and anyone that doesn't mind a jail mate. Obvious prisoner mail won't get thru to me. Paul Kip KIRK, 83001-158, Box 1000, Lewisburg PA 17837.

TYPEWRITERS FOR PRISON PROJECT

The Resist Foundation in Somerville, MA, still has a few typewriters to donate to prisoners. Preference is for inside groups that are involved with education or organizing. Next preference is to prisoners who are using typewriters to help a number of other people. If you would like to apply for a typewriter, write and describe the project you are working on or how you and others inside would be able to use it. Also, please let us know what regulations are involved in sending you a typewriter. Write: Typewriters for Prisoners, c/o Brian Flynn, GCN, 62 Berkeley St, Boston, MA 02116.



If you are a prisoner with AIDS and want to write to PWAs who are living satisfying lives outside, write: Hay House, 501 Santa Monica Blvd, No. 602, Santa Monica CA 90401

CALENDAR

January 4th, Cambridge ♦ The Brattle Theatre —long known for its commitment to screening lesbian, gay, feminist and alternative films — will be reopening on January 4th after major renovations. proprietrixes Marianne Lampke and Connie White promise more of the same this coming year and for the years to come. There will be new prints of Preston Sturges classics to begin with and then two days of Antonioni's feminist classic *Red Desert* on January 11th and 12th. There will be a celebration/benefit on January 24th. Watch for more details.



THE BRATTLE THEATRE IN 1953

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

22 SATURDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB Lesbian Couples' Group. 7 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

24 MONDAY

Boston ♦ MCC L/G Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 7 p.m. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). Info: 437-0420.

25 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Am Tikva Christmas Day Social Action Outreach Project for Homeless Families and Individuals. Info: 926-2536.

Boston ♦ Buddy Program Orientation, AIDS ACTION Committee. Volunteers needed to provide emotional and practical support to AAC clients on a one-to-one basis. Interested persons should fill out an application and attend orientation and training. Orientation meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. AIDS ACTION offices, 131 Clarendon St. 7:30 p.m. Info 437-6200 x450.

26 WEDNESDAY

Boston ♦ Coming Out Support Group. At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Second and fourth Wednesday of each month. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

27 THURSDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB Coffee Bar. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge ♦ Desert Hearts In Concert. ("The Judds meet the Indigo Girls.") With comedienne Susie Macksey. 8 p.m. Indigo, 823 Main St. Tickets \$8 by Ticketron.

28 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ Game Night. Board and parlor games every other Friday, 8 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Cambridge ♦ DOB / Lesbians 35+ Meet. 8 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston ♦ Friday Night at the Movies: "Wizard of Oz." 8:05 p.m. sharp. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 203. \$2 donation suggested; bring soda and chips. Info: 247-2927.

29 SATURDAY

Jamaica Plain ♦ Traditional New England Contra and Square Dances. Chris Ricciotti, caller. \$5. First Church of Jamaica Plain, Centre and Eliot Streets. 8 to 11 p.m. (beginners' lessons 7:30). Info: Janet 522-2216, Phil 729-9206, or Scott 536-2014.

30 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ AMALGM Monthly Men's Meeting. (AMALGM = Assoc. of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men.) Last Sunday of each month. The Center, 338 Newbury St., room 202K. Info: 247-2927.



31 MONDAY

Cambridge ♦ Indigo's New Year's Masquerade Ball. 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Indigo, 823 Main St. Tickets at Indigo/Nightstage, \$11 advance, \$12 at door.

JANUARY 1991

1 TUESDAY

Framlingham ♦ Framlingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group. People 22 and under, meets first and third Tuesdays each month. Civic League Bldg., 214 Concord St. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: write P.O. Box 426, S. Framlingham, MA 01701.

Boston ♦ Gay Fathers of Greater Boston: "Opening the New Year: Hopes and Fears." 8 to 10 p.m. Lindemann Ctr., 25 Staniford, 2nd floor Revere Room. Info: 742-7897.

2 WEDNESDAY

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Boston Gay Men's Chorus Auditions. 7 to 10 p.m. Arlington St. Church, Arlington & Boylston Sts. Appointments: 247-BGMC.

Boston ♦ NAMES Project/Boston General Meeting. 7 p.m. Piemonte Room, City Hall. Use Congress St. entrance. Info: 451-9003.

Cambridge ♦ Battered Women's Support Group. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Somerville ♦ B/L/G Rights Activists of Somerville (BLGRAS) Monthly Meeting. First Wednesday each month. 7 p.m. Info: 666-9288 or 628-9650.

Somerville ♦ Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Rights Activists of Somerville and Surrounding Areas (BLGRASS). Regular meeting (first Weds. of every month). 7 p.m. Site and agenda: 666-9288 or 628-9650.

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth. Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. First and third Wednesday each month. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd. 7 p.m. Info: (508) 755-0005.

Cambridge ♦ Writer's Support Group. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

3 THURSDAY

Cambridge ♦ DOB Coffee Bar. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge ♦ Women's Community Cancer Project. 7 to 9 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Open Discussion for Incest Survivors. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Northampton ♦ Valley Gay Alliance. First and third Thursdays each month. Basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30 p.m. (413) 527-5310.

4 FRIDAY

Cambridge ♦ Incest Survivors Anonymous. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Birthmothers. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. TTY/voice 354-8807.

Somerville ♦ Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers. New members welcome. Info: Carol 483-3685.

Brookline ♦ Am Tikva Monthly Shabbat Services. Bring something sweet to share at oneg. 8 p.m. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. Info: 926-2536.

Boston ♦ Friday Night at the Movies: "All the Right Moves." 8:05 p.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., rm. 203.

Cambridge ♦ L/G/B Swing & Ballroom Dance. With Cheek to Cheek 8:15 to midnight; basic swing and tango lessons at 8:15. Old Camb. Baptist Church, Harvard Sq. Info: 661-1792.

Brookline ♦ "Swlnotme." Lesbian, gay bisexual

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

Boston ♦ BAGLY Drop-In Center. (BAGLY = Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.) St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin. Info: (800) 428BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Boston ♦ Dignity Mass. Liturgy is followed by a social hour. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. 5:30 p.m. Info: 536-6518.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. Info: 227-5794.

Boston ♦ ALATEEN Group open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30 p.m. Info: Dave 629-2518 or Frank 666-8912.

Boston ♦ Boston Healing Circle. This group has disbanded and is no longer meeting.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Gay Narcotics Anonymous. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. Info: 247-2927.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends. About 100 people with AIDS and their friends meet every Monday at AIDS ACTION for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AIDS ACTION, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Meeting House Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Committee. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508)755-3773.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. Info: 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge ♦ 30+ Lesbian Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. Info: 354-8807.

Medford Radlo ♦ "We the People" — with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9 a.m. Tufts University radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ Gay/Bisexual Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. Info: 266-0628.

Cambridge TV ♦ PrideTime — Boston gay and lesbian television, with Jim Voltz. Cambridge Cable Channel 19. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Informal Meeting with Mayor Flynn's Liason to the Gay Community. Ann Sanders will

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6 p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30 p.m. 523-7363 or 1-800-428BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon with child care, wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. Info: (413)788-7459

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are In Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: (508) 755-3773.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Arlington Street Church (use Boylston Street entrance). 6 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Boston ♦ The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. Meets every Thursday. The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: 828-3039.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. Info: (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

Boston ♦ ACA for Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals. (ACA = Adult Children of Alcoholics.) Support group for all adult children of dysfunctional family systems. Lindemann Center, 2nd floor, Winthrop Room. Wheelchair access. 8 p.m. Info: 536-2856.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-1129.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT = Gays at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, room 50-306, 142 Memorial Dr.

FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: Gays and Lesbians of Watertown. Info 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. Info: 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Friday Night At The Movies. The Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. Free. 7 p.m. Info: 236-1012.

Boston ♦ Body Electric. Healing w/sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. \$12. Info: 522-9164.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. Info: 262-3456.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers complimentary. 10 a.m. Also: Tues. 12:15 p.m. at MHC; Wed. 6:45 p.m. at Hatch Shell. Info: 282-0013.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamigos. For TV/TS of New England. 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd flr. Info: 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime — Boston gay and lesbian

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